A

HINT

UPON

INSTRUCTIONS

FROM THE

ELECTORS

TO THEIR

REPRESENTATIVES, &c.

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in Parliament:

R Great Britain
Common, H. of

With *Remarks* upon a Letter Publiſh'd in the LONDON-EVENING-POST, on *Tueſday* the 5*th*. Inſtant and Re-publiſh'd on the 9*th*. in the ſame Paper.

No Act of Cowardice *is more Ignoble and Ungenerous, than to Libel any Man's Reputation by Artful Speeches, and falſe Inſinuations*; Libelers *of every degree are like* Ruffians *that Stab in the Dark*; *(and as* Serpents *that Bite) baſely Creep into Holes for want of* Courage *openly to Avow their Actions.*

L O N D O N:

Printed for *J. ROBERTS* in WARWICK-LANE

Price Six-Pence.]

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IT has been a New ſort of Political Doctrine ſtrenuonſly enforc'd by the *Modern* Male-contents, *That the Electors have an abſolute, and indubitable*

bitable right to Inſtruct, *and* Adviſe *their Members how to* Act, *and give their Votes upon every occaſion in Parliament; And that They are accountable for every Step they take, as* Repreſentatives, *to Thoſe who Elect Them.*

The truth of this aſſertion cannot be diſown'd, upon the ſlighteſt review of ſome very latent Proceedings, and Inſtructions of this kind, which have been Publiſh'd in the *Craftſman*, *Common-Senſe*, and *Champion*; with the higheſt Encomiums, and Rhetorical flouriſhes in favour of their Patrons.

The Legality, and Fitneſs of ſuch *Inſtructions* from the Electors to their own particular *Members*, is not however the point I ſhall at preſent otherways Contend for, more than offering the two, or three following Obſervations

ons

ons upon the Inconſiſtency, and Conſequences, which muſt naturally follow ſuch a Behaviour.

The different Views, Principles, and Paſſions, of the Generality of Mankind are ſuch, either in point of *Trade*, their own private Affairs, or prejudices of one kind or other, that were it the avow'd Practice, and Method, For the *Electors* to *Inſtruct* their *Repreſentatives* upon every occaſion in Parliament, it would be an Endleſs, and inſuperable difficulty to every individual *Senator* in the diſcharge of that lawful Duty and regard, claim'd from him by his *King* and *Contry:* Nor would this alone be the only bad Effect incident to ſuch a procedure; For, it would alſo, many Times deprive the *Repreſentatives* of that juſt Liberty ſo peculiar and valuable to every

Engliſh

Engliſhman of *Speaking* their Sentiments *Freely* without *Compulſion*, or *Reſerve*; And tend to Fruſtrate their Intentions of Acting, in their Legiſlative Capacity for the Good of the whole Community, according to the beſt of their *own* Conſciences and Judgment: Theſe Incroachments upon the Liberties of every *Member* in Parliament, muſt conſequently happen from the nature of *Inſtructions* from their *Electors*; which ſo far from being the real Opinion, and Inſtructions of the *Majority* of Their *Electors*; might oftentimes be only the reſult of a Few Turbulent Spirited Men in a *City*, *County*, or *Borough*: And in ſo perplex'd a State of Things, it would be impracticable for the *Legiſlature*, either to conduct the *Safety* and *Service* of *National* Concerns with *Prudence*, *Diſpatch*, and *Unanimity*; Or,

to

to ſupport the Honour, Credit, and Welfare of the Publick in general, with that Solemnity, Reſpect, and Solidity, becoming the Deportment and Actions of a *Britiſh Houſe* of *Commons*.

But to come immediately to the Author I intend to take notice of.——— After many perſonal Reflections upon *Thoſe* who appear in the Cauſe of the Government (a Cauſe! which no well Wiſher to the *Britiſh Eſtabliſhment* need ever be aſhamed of publickly owning his Attachment to) the Author proceeds in the following Strain———

I have heard (ſays he,) of a Miniſter *who being deteſted by his Fellow Subjects, boaſted how many of his Oppoſers he would drive out of the* Houſe *by Petitions; an Infamous Practice which he Stiled Weeding: And his uſual Healths among his*

Familiars, are Unanimity, Attendance, and no Quarter in Elections.——Can any thing be more Infamous than ſuch bare-fac'd Allegations, unſupported by Proofs, conceiv'd in the heighth of a malicious Imagination, and the mere Fruits of a rancourous Brain! For, can this Writer make it appear (though he ſaucily aſſerts without any Regard to Truth or Decency) that the Honourable Perſon he *ſquints* at, ever once made uſe of a ſingle Expreſſion, the leaſt relative to what he Advances? Or, unleſs his Stupidity be equal to his Pertneſs, can he be ſenſeleſs enough to imagine, that any but his own Creatures will be impos'd upon by ſuch fallacious Inſinuations? —— Theſe Reflections, however, are only aim'd at *One* Gentleman in Power, whoſe ſuperiour Abilities, Innocence, and Evenneſs of Temper,

per, have always ſupported Him againſt the vain Attempts of his Enemies; and in deſpite of the many ungenerous Artifices, Stratagems, and *Motions* of an Invenom'd Faction: A Faction! who have upon many Occaſions made it appear evident, That their pretended Jealouſies, and envious diſpoſition againſt a *Juſt* and *Moderate* Power in Others, ariſes from no other Motive than an Ambitious deſire to graſp all Authority, and Power, immediately into their own Hands: This, I ſay, appears, to the unprejudiced part of Mankind to have been the *real* Spirit of *Oppoſition* ſo vehemently carried on, againſt the preſent *Adminiſtration*, as far as the Paſſions, and Intentions, of a *Party*, can be gueſs'd at from their *Actions*; and indeed, ſo extreme great is the Inſtability of *ſuch* Mens *Principles*, that were it pro-

bable for an *Angel* from Above to deſcend, and hold the Reins of Government, for our mutual Welfare, and Happineſs, yet all would be wrong, every Step caluminated, and unjuſtly Aggravated to the People, while *They* and their Aſſociates had no immediate Share in the Management of Publick Affairs.

Theſe are no unnatural Suggeſtions; becauſe Hiſtory and Experience fully evinces, That Men of *ſuch* an unhappy Caſt, have more, or leſs, appear'd in every *Reign* and under all Governments throughout the Globe.

But to return to the Author, and ſtrike at once upon his Inſults, to the *Houſe* of *Commons* in general.

In

In ſhort, (ſays he) the Parliament meets on the 18th, *Inſtant: The* Balance *of* Europe, *the Support of our National Honour, the Protection of our* Commerce, *and the ſecurity of our Ineſtimable Liberty,* all *depend on the ſtrict Attendance of every Honeſt* Britiſh *Repreſentative on* that *Day.——— I ſay again, the Preſervation of* all *that our Anceſtors have fought for, and died for, depends on the ſtrict Attendance at the Meeting of the Parliament on the* 18th. *Inſtant.——Not on the* 20th. *or* 19th, *or on the* 18th, *in the Evening, but on the* 18th, *at the Meeting of the Houſe.*

Theſe are his Expreſſions literally tranſcrib'd: And after this great, this mighty Day, big, as He aſſures us with the Fate of *all* that's dear, and valuable, He then proceeds with his Summons

mons to the Members in the following Manner:

On the Day of the Meeting of the Parliament, the Merchants of the City of London *intend to Petition the Houſe on Account of their Loſſes by the* Spaniſh *Privateers.*——— This he would feign inſinuate as a Slur upon the Government, in reſpect to the Loſſes the *Merchants* have ſuſtain'd by *Spaniſh* Privateers ſince the Commencement of the War. —But can this Author take upon him to prove That the Applications of the *Merchants* have not always been attended to in Parliament, or wherever elſe They have apply'd Themſelves, with that Juſtice and Reſpect becoming ſo uſeful a Body of Men?——— Is it conſiſtent to imagine, or can any one attempt to prove (but from Sophiſtry

ſtry and Evaſion) that the Government has not the ſame good Wiſhes and Regard for the Security and Welfare of the *Merchants*, as any other Set of Men can poſſibly have towards Them? And let me ſay, infinitely more, in all probability, than this Author, notwithſtanding all his Cant and ſtudied Rhetorick.——— The *Merchants* carry on *Trade*; the *Royal Revenue* is principally ſupported by it; and every Loſs to the *Merchants* in general is of Courſe the ſame to the Government, particularly in point of *Imports* and Conſumption: How then, I ſay, is it reconcileable to Reaſon, or Common Senſe, that the Government ſhould wink at the Misfortunes of the Merchants, or that their Loſſes are owing to any Neglect or Diſregard to their Intereſt?——— This is no Syllogiſm, or unfair way of Arguing;

Arguing; but a plain matter of Fact. For the Intereſt of the *Government* and *Merchants* in general is mutual, and depending upon each other; and muſt ever remain ſo, while Trade and Commerce ſubſiſt.—— That a Great Number of *Engliſh* Ships have been taken during the preſent War with *Spain*, is own'd and lamented; but when it is judiciouſly conſider'd, what a prodigious Diſproportion of Shipping *Our* Trade requires in every Part of the World, to *that* of *Spain* we ſhall find it impracticable, from the Nature of Things, but that the *Spaniards* muſt ever be capable, notwithſtanding all our Vigilance, of Diſtreſſing Our *Merchants*———— Nor is it poſſible for us to Block up their Men of War and Privateers, along the whole Coaſt of *Spain*, without greatly indangering our own Coaſts and

and Harbours, by leaving them too Defenceleſs, and Open to any other contending Power, beſides that which we are actually engag'd with: So that the Loſſes ſome Gentlemen muſt unavoidably Suſtain, during the *firſt* Courſe of a War, cannot always be prevented; But the *Ending* of the *whole*, to a *National* Honour, and Advantage, is what more chiefly requires the Publick Attention. I have as great a regard for the Character, and Welfare, of every Worthy Merchant in the Kingdom, as this Author, or any other Man can boaſt; but I cannot help remarking ſtill farther upon this Head, That, at the Breaking out of the preſent War, many of our Ships were taken by the *Spaniards*, for want of patience in their Owners, and Commanders, in waiting a proper Convoy: A Fact which every unprejudic'd Subject will own, however

the Modeſty of this Author, may preſume to deny it. But to return again to his Obſervations and Threats upon Non-attendance in Parliament ——— *The old Excuſe therefore (ſays he) for remaining Idle in the Country cannot now be pleaded, That all Attendance is Fruitleſs, becauſe there are no hopes of Succeſs: There are hopes; nor can it be ſaid that the Attendance of a ſingle Perſon is of no Conſequence.*

Thus the Author, impeaches the Judgment, and Honour of every Member, by arrogantly Dictating his own Will and Pleaſure in convening the whole Houſe together upon the 18*th.* Inſt.——As if, every Gentleman who has the Honour to Sit in Parliament, ought to learn his Duty, and Attendance immediately from him; and that They are unable to Diſtinguiſh upon what

what Principles They ought to Act for the Good of their Country, unleſs they govern themſelves by *ſuch* as He Chaulks out, and inſiſts upon.—— But in his warmth upon Non-attendance, it is very natural to imagine, that this Author (whoever he be) forgot the Gentlemens Names who fled from their Duty ſome Time ago: He either wilfully forgets the late *Famous Seceſſion*, or was perhaps hir'd at that Time of Day, to write and expreſs himſelf in a quite different Language.—— I remember however to have read ſome time before the *Seceſſion* happen'd, Two very Labour'd Epiſtles, Publiſh'd in the *Craftſman* upon *Penſions* and *Non-attendance in Parliament*, wrote by a *Certain Gentleman* who was *not the laſt* who promoted the *Seceding Flight*; wherein to ſerve a turn at the Time they were wrote, He declared that if the Attempts of a *Minority*

were ever ſo Vain, and Fruitleſs, yet nothing ſhould prompt an Honeſt Man to deſert the Attendance of the *Houſe* upon any account or pretence whatever.——How repugnant, how diametrically oppoſite then, is ſuch a Solemn Declaration, to the *ſame Gentleman's* Behaviour, who fled from his Attendance in Parliament for almoſt a whole Seſſions together?—— I have juſt hinted this, to remind the Author of the unaccountable Diſpoſition of *ſome Patrons*, in whoſe favour, he has furniſhed the Publick with a duplicate of his extraordinary Summons in the *London-Evening-Poſt*: So that it is evident from late experience, that even *Patriots* can turn, and Shift, with Times and Circumſtances in order to accompliſh their own Private Views.——

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To trace this Author however, to his Concluſion. — After his Calumnies, and Reproaches againſt Thoſe who dare diſobey *his* Summons on the 18th, Inſtant, He ends the whole as follows.

If any Repreſentative (therefore) pretending to Patriotiſm lingers in the Country after the 18*th Inſtant* (ſo that upon the 18th, according to his own Senſe of Words They may yet be Abſent) *I doubt not but he will be neglected by his Friends abandon'd by his general Acquaintance, and that no Societies will receive him, but that lying under an Interdict in his Neighbourhood for his unnatural Indolence, the* 18*th, of January may be to him a Conſtant Subject of Reproach.*

Thus endeth the whole Service of this Authors *Summons*, and *Inſtructions* to

to the *Houſe* of *Commons* in the *London-Evening-Poſt* as before mention'd.

To comment further upon it is almoſt Endleſs.—— Such a ſtride of *Licentiouſneſs* and *Liberty* of the *Preſs*, has hardly ever appear'd in Print: It is ſuch a glaring affront upon the *Britiſh Parliament* in general, that I dare aver, no Hiſtory, no Libel in any former Reign, can at leaſt more than parallel; nor, could a *Dictator* of *Old* under the *Conſular* Power of *Rome*, (after the Death of their Tyrant *Tarquin*, have acted, or wrote in a more deſpotic Strain.

That the *Electors* of *Great-Britain* have a natural Right and Pretenſion to *Inſtruct* their *Repreſentatives* in points of great Emergency. When it can be proved I ſay, that their *Liberties* are abus'd and their *Properties* indanger'd by Arbitrary

bitrary and illegal Methods of Government: In Such Extremities, when their *Repreſentatives* are tamely ſuffering their Conſtitutional Rights to be Invaded, and Trampled upon, every individual *Elector* has no doubt a juſt and lawful Right to ſtand up in his *own* Defence, and to join in *Inſtructions* to *Thoſe* who repreſent Them in *Parliament*, in order to defeat ſuch impending Dangers and Deſtruction.—

But for any Man, as this Author hath done, to call upon the *Parliament* in general by Threats and Imprecations, to meet and ſit agreeable to his Method, and Preſcription, is ſuch a daring Affront and Indignity offer'd to the whole *Legiſlature*, which none but the moſt *Profligate*, *Hot-headed* Writer, could ever think of Publiſhing.

F I N I S.

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